

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ROME 09082 180926Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
EB-08 COME-00 /074 W
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R 171556Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2855
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION USNATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 9082

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, IT, TU
SUBJECT: ITALIAN MISSION TO ANKARA

1. MFA DIRECTOR FOR BALKAN AFFAIRS VENTO TOLD US MAY 17 THAT FIRST HIGH-LEVEL VISIT IN SIX YEARS BETWEEN ITALIANS AND TURKS WILL TAKE PLACE NEXT WEEK. MFA UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE RADI WILL LEAD DELEGATION TO ANKARA FOR TWO-DAY VISIT BEGINNING MAY 22. ORIGINAL PURPOSE OF VISIT WAS TO SWARD HIGH ITALIAN DECORATION TO PRESIDENT KORUTURK AND PERHAPS TO MEET WITH ITALIAN WORKERS INVOLVED IN DAM CONSTRUCTION IN EASTERN TURKEY. AT VENTO'S URGING (ACCORDING TO HIM), DECISION WAS TAKEN TO INJECT GREATER POLITICAL CONTENT INTO VISIT BY SUBSTITUTING RADI FOR UNDER SECRETARY FOSCHI, WHO NORMALLY DEALS WITH MATTERS INVOLVING EMIGRATION AND ITALIAN WORKERS ABROAD, AS LEADER OF MISSION.

2. IN ADDITION TO CEREMONY INVOLVING KORUTURK, RADI HAS APPOINTMENT WITH FOREIGN MINISTER, AND MFA HAS RECIEVED
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PAGE 02 ROME 09082 180926Z

INDICATIONS THAT ECEVIT MIGHT RECEIVE HIM AS WELL. WHILE ITALIANS HAVE NO BILATERAL PROBLEMS TO DISCUSS WITH TURKS, OTHER THAN THOSE INVOLVING TURKISH DEBTS WHICH THEY HOPE TO KEEP IN MULTINATIONAL CONTEXT, THEY HOPE TO REASSURE TURKS AT "DIFFICULT MOMENT" FOR THEM. ITALIANS ARE NOT ALARMIST ABOUT RECENT SIGNS OF WARMING BETWEEN SOVIETS AND TURKS, BUT BELIEVE THAT TURKEY SHOULD BE MADE TO FEEL

AS MUCH PART OF WEST AS POSSIBLE.

3. ONLY OTHER TOPIC LIKELY TO ARISE MIGHT INVOLVE FURTHER ITALIAN INDUSTRIAL INVESTMENT IN TURKEY. MAJOR ITALIAN ENTERPRISES IN TURKEY NOW INCLUDE FIAT PLANTS PRODUCING CARS AND TRACTORS, PIRELLI TIRE FACTORY, AND PHARMACEUTICAL WORKS. ITALIANS FORESEE POSSIBLITY THAT TURKS MIGHT RAISE WITH THEM IDEA OF JOINT VENTURE TO PRODUCE ARMS IN TURKEY, ALONG LINES OF RECENT SUGGESTIONS BY ECEVIT. ITALIANS HAVE DOUBTS ABOUT ECONOMIC VIABILITY OF SUCH AN ENTERPRISE.GARDNER

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